

THE PRESENT STUDY

Outline of Section

- Theoretical framework of the study
- Rationale
- Relevance of using a case study
- Objectives of the study
- Research question

Theoretical Framework of the Study

The theoretical framework was developed from the literature reviewed especially, the different theories on aging and international migration. The final selection of theories/concepts is as follows.

- On Aging:
 - ▶ Erickson's Eight Stages of Human Life
 - ▶ Hindu theory of Ashramadharma
 - ▶ Situation of elders in village settings with focus on :
 - ◆ Concept of aging
 - ◆ Social support system
 - ◆ Life situation and life review
 - ◆ Psychosocial issues
 - ◆ Roles played in family and community
 - ◆ Feelings, satisfactions and constraints

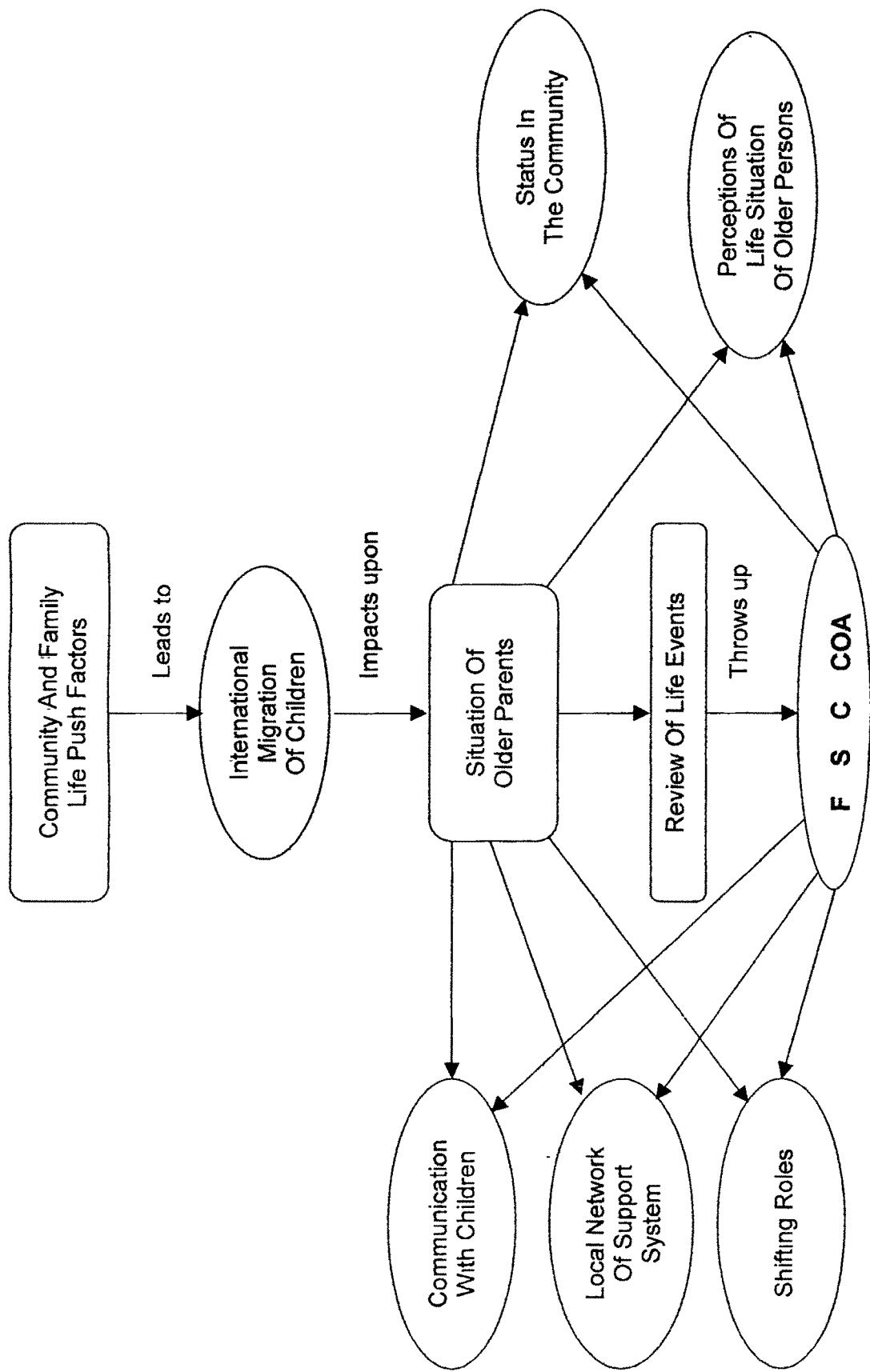
- On International migration:
 - ▶ Push and pull factors
 - ▶ Network theory
 - ▶ Intergenerational communication and support between out migrated children and parents
 - ▶ Perceptions about older persons abroad

Brief Explanation of Framework

There are push factors in the community and family life in villages that lead to the international migration of older children. This migration impacts on the situation of older parents who remain in the village, alone or in families. Though they keep in touch with their migrated children through available communication channels, they also need a local network for help, care and support. Further, their own perceptions of elders' situation abroad, take shape due to exposure to foreign settings in different ways. At this stage of life the elders are also given to reminiscing and reviewing about their life events and defining old age. Usually, feelings, satisfactions and constraints are felt. Last, the study threw up the concept of the shifting roles of elders which has come as a surprise. Many of these concepts named above are inter-connected as depicted by the arrows in Figure 1.

Rationale

Aging is an inevitable developmental phenomenon, bringing a number of changes in the physical, psychological and social conditions. The study of aging is vital at a time



Note. F= Feelings, S= Satisfaction, C= Constraints, COA= Concept Of Old Age

Figure 1 Theoretical Framework Of The Study.

when we all live longer and services are needed to improve the care and support of the ever-increasing population of elders. Due to globalization, the younger generation is seeking or tapping the vast opportunities in countries abroad, leaving the elders to fend for themselves. There is a dearth of literature on the impact felt by such migration on the social and psychological aspects. This is because researches so far have focussed on the census or archival considerations with respect to immigration and labour requirements.

The knowledge gained from the present study will be disseminated to the national and the local governments, NGOs and other service providers and schools, to take appropriate action at policy and implementation levels. Communities and families will be better able to understand the unique support needs of older parents with out migrated children in rural settings and encourage the mainstreaming of such individuals for a more active and productive life in a supportive environment.

Relevance of using a case study approach

The literature on case studies is not very intensive but contains specific guidelines for the researchers to follow in carrying out the case study. Case study is a naturally occurring phenomenon and prefers small numbers wherein focus is on one or few instances of a particular phenomenon to provide an in depth account of events, relationships, experiences or processes occurring in that particular area. It is also a research strategy. It can test a theory by confirming crucial elements that are especially significant that researchers should be able to predict certain outcomes if theory holds true e.g. push and pull theory of migration. Case studies are self-contained with distinct

boundaries i.e. physical or geographical, social, political and artificial. Artificial boundary includes activities, processes, relationships in a physically defined area and the outside happenings, which have a direct bearing on the subjects. There is some difficulty in dealing with temporary outside factors. The present case study is descriptive in nature that answers all the “what” questions and uses case study guidelines throughout, to validate the findings.

Objectives of the Study

Broad objective

Study the impact of international migration of children on older parents, in rural Gujarat.

Specific objectives

- To develop an integrated profile of their setting.
- Find out their:
 - (a) Reciprocal communication with migrated children
 - (b) Reciprocal support system in the community
 - (c) Perceptions about life situations of elders and international migration
- Review their own life situation on selected factors

Research Question

What is the impact on the community and life situations of older parents after children migrate internationally?